

JIM PATTINSON

This is an interview with Jim Pattinson and his wife on the 26 July 1980 in Canberra. Jim is a descendent of a well-known Kiandra family. The Pattinsons were active at Kiandra at the time of the 1860 goldrush and they have had an association with Kiandra for over 120 years. Jim was born in the 1910s and the interview will probably clear as to the exact year, lived in Kiandra for very much of his early life, later moved to various country towns, was Australian Ski Champion in the 1940s when he trained at Whites River and later on was also a ranger for the Kosciusko Park Trust. He now lives in Canberra and works as a teacher's assistant at Campbell High School.

Cassette ① Side ① -----

KH: When I went through various records in the Department of Mines' Annual Reports and so on, it seemed as though the Pattinsons occurred a number of times and the first date I have - and I'm not sure where I got this from - is a date in 1835, the birth of James J. Pattinson in Weasdale in England. Now do you know of that descendent? It would have been the guy who came out to Australia in the 1850s.

JP: I suppose that would be my grandfather, because he was James, the one that's buried at Kiandra.

KH: Right, I probably got that from one of the headstones.

MRS P: Yes, there's a little plaque there now, isn't there, that was put up there.

KH: That would have been the guy who actually worked at the Kiandra gold rush. It would have been your grandfather's grandfather or something like that.

JP: No, my grandfather would be the first one of them.

KH: Would he?

JP: Yes, he was a pommy, so was his wife.

KH: That could be I guess. So it's only really two generations ago when they first came out from England.

JP: Yes. They came to Parkes I think. Because they moved from Parkes to Kiandra.

KH: Was he married before he came to Australia?

JP: I would think so because Grandma was English - that's what I'm going on you know.

KH: So they were a young couple with an adventurous spirit - they must have had an adventurous spirit - who came out to Australia in the 1850s.

JP: I think so. They'd be chasing the gold. They came from Parkes

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across to Kiandra.

KH: Do you know what they did in Parkes?

JP: No, I wouldn't, I wouldn't have a clue, although there would be a cousin of mine, his parents, perhaps himself, well they were still at Parkes. Their descendents would be still at Parkes, they're on a property - Jacky Townsend's mother.

MRS P: Oh yes, is he still alive?

JP: No.

KH: So this was a James Pattinson, in fact the J.J. keeps reoccurring.

JP: Well I've never heard of the second name - just James - only what was going on what was on the headstone up there.

KH: Well I've got another J. from somewhere, but then your father was J.J. Pattinson.

JP: No, he was just William.

KH: You became J. again?

JP: Yes.

KH: But not James?

JP: Oh yes, James.

KH: You were Christened James? but they call you Jim?

JP: Yes, that right.

MRS P: James Lonsdale - the Lonsdale came from your grandmother's people.

JP: Yes, that was her maiden name I think.

KH: So they were probably, I imagine, one of the first couples at Kiandra because I imagine most of them were single people, single batchelors and so on.

JP: Oh, ho, yes, they may have been too.

KH: It would be fairly unusual to have a wife on the goldfields!

JP: What year was it ... Auntie Amy, you know ... came to Kiandra?

MRS P: Yes, I've got that letter somewhere.

JP: They came when she was 9 years old, up over Talbingo. She remembered the wagonnets coming through.

KH: This is your grandmother?

JP: No, this would be an Auntie of mine, my father's sister - she was older than dad. The first that I recall that name linked with anything was New Chum Hill - the gold mining there. They lived up on the top of New Chum Hill.

KH: Not at Kiandra itself.

JP: No, up around the point of the hill there towards the Mill Hole.

KH: The Mill Hole is below the intersection of the Cabramurra road and the Snowy Mountains Highway, is that right?

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JP: Up above, up the Tumut Road a little bit.

KH: That was what they dammed at one stage for fishing or something.

JP: When they were sluicing there, one of the sluice boxes came out and the gravel tipped down there and started to build up, so they put in a few logs and used their tailings as the wall - that's what built the wall.

KH: A bit like the Elaine, I don't know if you've been to the Elaine, but all the spoil from the Elaine tunnel goes right across the valley, except that the rocks are so big that it still lets the water through at the bottom. It dams up a little bit when there's a high water flow. But <sup>the Kiandra</sup> <sup>dam</sup> was washed away, I think Bill Hughes talked about that dam too - washed away in a flood there a couple of years later.

JP: The one at the Mill Hole?

KH: Yes.

JP: They didn't allow for an overflow from what I can gather.

KH: I noticed the other day - last weekend - when I was going into Kiandra on the Sunday morning there were people skating around on the old dredge ponds or the old sluicing ponds, did you skate very much at Kiandra?

JP: Not at all.

MRS P: In the early days of the Snowy, it was frozen over and <sup>a</sup> chap - I don't know if he was skiing or skating - one chap got drowned.

JP: When I was a kid at Kiandra there wouldn't be a pair of skates within a 100 miles of the place. It wasn't in the fashion then.

KH: Two people actually drowned skating ....

JP: Yes, Snowy Mountain workers. They had a camp up there - there was a fair few there. They went out, the ice was a bit thin and down they went, so they placed the dam out of bounds then.

KH: But often the ice is thinnest at the edge of some of those places isn't it or it seems to be on smaller ponds.

JP: I think so too. You see it melts around the edge first.

KH: So your grandfather had a cottage on New Chum Hill itself, quite a substantial place.

JP: Oh yes, it was, I can remember that.

KH: That didn't have to be shifted because of the sluicing or something like that, it wasn't in the way.

JP: Oh no, well it would be sort of sluiced all round it almost. They'd be on a bit of a higher part that wouldn't want to be sluiced I'd imagine.

KH: So that was still there in your memory?

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JP: Oh yes, that was still there in my memory, it was vacant too, because my grandfather had died - there was about 11 in the family you know and they were dispersed all over the country.

KH: So James had 11 kids.

JP: Yes, and grandmother went to Sydney, she'd be fairly old and that left the house vacant. It <sup>was</sup> sold <sup>to</sup> somebody, I can't think who - pulled down and shifted.

KH: So your grandparents moved away from Kiandra or your grandmother did?

JP: Yes, grandfather was dead. He'd be dead and buried and that's when she'd go I'd imagine.

KH: I've got a date here for the birth of your father William - 1874, would that be about right?

JP: Well he died in 1949 and he was 75 then.

KH: Apparently there is, well I've got another indication here that he started to be active at the Four Mile in the 1880s - well that may have still been his father actually. There must be a date in one of the Mines' Department Reports of James doing some gold mining at Four Mile in the 1880s. Would he have moved about the country a fair bit. Because I mainly associate the Pattinsons with New Chum Hill.

JP: That's right and then dad started, well it would <sup>be</sup> his brother who started the tunnel that's closest to the chalet. There's one - you know the old pub - straight up past where that iron water tank thing is, which was their water storage. Just round there, there was a tunnel, well that's where Uncle Joe, he put his in and dad put one in - the last one up the Three Mile Road as you go up there a couple of miles you look across on your left.

KH: On your left, opposite on the other side of the valley - up above all those race lines, above Bullocks Creek?

JP: Yes, that's where he put 12 years in on that - that's how he wasted 12 years he reckons.

KH: And he didn't get any gold out of that?

JP: No.

KH: That amazes me, the number of people who worked on the Elaine and the Lorna Doone and now this tunnel of your fathers - spending years and not getting anywhere.

JP: I don't think there was a tunnel around there that paid.

KH: But the Empress was pretty good wasn't it.

JP: What was the Empress?

KH: On the Nine Mile.

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JP: That could have been too, yes.

KH: Not any of the ones on New Chum Hill?

JP: No.

KH: Your grandfather was the manager of the Kiandra Gold Mining Co.?

JP: Yes.

KH: He would have been in the building of Three Mile Dam wouldn't he? He was around at that time!

JP: The way I was told, this way by the Auntie who came there when she was nine or perhaps when the family moved there and I asked her about that. She said they put the dam up either once or twice and it washed away and he was the gold mining manager of it you see, and these would be the heads above that again. He asked the heads of the company if he could have a go at putting it in and they agreed - not much choice I suppose. When he put it in it lasted. So that's what she told me, we have it in this letter mum was speaking about.

KH: That must have been a big job?

JP: Oh yes, they had horses and drays.

KH: Horses with scoops - they had draught horses in those days didn't they?

JP: Yes, horse and dray - I reckon it would be pick and shovel myself.

KH: What - getting the soil and rock from somewhere else ...

JP: Yes, and carting it there and tipping it off. Then they tamped it all - I know that part - all by hand.

KH: They had a valve in it didn't they?

JP: Yes, there was a tunnel that went in there - a bricked-in tunnel.

KH: A bricked-in tunnel, how did they control the water flow?

JP: I think it might be still on the edge of the dam - the old wheel.

KH: ... a metal valve at the end of this brick tunnel?

JP: Yes, the tunnel run on into the dam a bit I think but the valve went down and they just wind the wheel to let the water out or close it off.

KH: Some sort of gate device!

JP: Yes, that's right.

KH: Apparently they had a guy who was employed just to do that - there was a cottage up there, up near the dam. I can't remember the name of the guy. He was employed to open the gates at 5 o'clock in the morning or something so that 2 hours later the water would be down to the dams above the face.

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JP: It was used after that - in my time it was used again to operate an elevator and they had an old chap, a pensioner, up there and he'd turn it on and turn it off, turn it off at 2 o'clock or something like that, turn it on early in the morning - conserve the water a bit.

KH: It was a jet elevator on New Chum Hill!

JP: Well, no, it's not very far from where they had that crusher set up there now.

KH: But they still used the old race line?

JP: Yes. Exactly the same thing only just a slightly different site. Up on the hill they used the nozzles but down there on the flat they had to lift it up out of the hole - that's where the elevator part came in.

KH: Did they have a header dam on that one - they'd need a header dam for every one of those wouldn't they?

JP: No, it came direct.

KH: Direct out of the race line.

JP: Yes, down through a flume. Started off two feet, reduced then down to a foot, then a 6" pipe, then a 4" nozzle with a fair amount of force.

KH: Did you work on that one?

JP: Oh no, that was when I was a kid. I can just remember that one.

KH: So your father spent most of his time mining?

JP: Well, he wasn't a miner from the time I can remember.

KH: He wasn't! What did he turn to later on then?

JP: He had a store and butcher shop at Kiandra and snow leases and cattle.

I was born in 1917.

KH: So your father was active as a miner with his father in his 20s, then in his 30s he started his business?

JP: No, I don't think so - probably was with his father in his 20s but then he had 12 years in that tunnel on top of that. Plus he had a trip to Western Australia for a gold rush there too - went over there for a while. It would be after that - I reckon in his 40s anyway.

KH: Yes, because I've got a date here - 1924 - when he's down as a postmaster at Kiandra.

JP: That's when we moved there as a family. We were in Adamin<sup>6</sup>by at that time and then we moved up and went into the post office. At that time he had the store and butcher shop - I can't remember any further back than that. I was born in Adaminaby.

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KH: So you didn't go up to Kiandra ...

JP: ... until I was seven - that was 1924.

KH: So your father went away from Kiandra for a while?

JP: I don't think he'd go for very long but he had that trip to Western Australia.

KH: I mean his family - his wife and children.

JP: We'd be at Adaminaby at that time - up till then.

KH: There's also dates of him still continuing to work with gold mining - alluvial gold with Jacob Wilson, so they must have been in partnership for a while, back in the 20s?

JP: I don't know if he worked with Jacob - I remember him. He had an elevator like I was just speaking about, probably the same one - he wasn't with him then.

KH: There's a date in the 1925 Annual Report of the Mine's Department where the two of them got 34 ounces of gold valued at 132 pounds from alluvial sources.

JP: That could be, I really wouldn't know.

KH: So you went up to Kiandra in 1924, would that be the first time you skied as well, when you were seven/eight.

JP: Yes.

KH: They'd be a handmade pair of skis?

JP: Oh yes.

KH: Were they the old fence paling type or a more modern version?

JP: Well they were split out of mountain ash.

KH: Did you have special short skis for kids?

JP: Yes, a bit shorter than the grown-up size.

KH: But they were still the leather strap for the toes and not much else.

JP: Not much else, make their own grooves, as you wore them out they would get the grain in them.

KH: That's how the name butterpat arose?

JP: Well they used to run a groove<sup>7</sup> down them and make butterpats in them. Sometimes half a dozen or more - small ones. That gave them direction. They cut them on the quarter of the log, that gave you the hard and soft grain, if you backed them off you'd have large flat pieces of hard or soft timber or both together.

KH: That would lead to them twisting or losing their shape?

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JP: Oh yes, you couldn't keep camber in them, they'd go flat on you. You had to keep popping them out in the middle. You also had to turn them up again at the ends, they were boiled and turned up originally but they'd go flat. Boiled up in a kerosene bucket and put in a press to hold them.

KH: It wouldn't stay that way?

JP: No, it would tend to go flat again. I had a pair once that dad made and he'd be the rough<sub>est</sub> carpenter about. We went to school in them and would ski at recess - out snowshoeing. We built a jump but it was too straight so I must be first over the jump but my boards were so flat that they dug into it and I went straight on. I came clear out of the kick-ins and landed on my nose.

KH: Did you use any wax then?

JP: Oh yes, my word, Moko.

KH: But the oldies would make that wouldn't they?

JP: When we were big enough, we'd make our own, my word.

MRS P: You had nothing done for you in those days once you were old enough to do something yourself.

JP: On race day we'd get some of the older ones to wax them up with their special stuff.

KH: What were the ingredients?

JP: Oh what was generally used - that was resin, beeswax and candle, some used boiled oil, I used tar. We'd melt it all up until it was all dissolved and leave it in a tin. When you wanted some you'd warm it up and have a paint brush and brush it on to the warmed soles of your skis in front of the fire. You'd rub it down with your hand when you were finished. According to the consistency, for wet snow or dry snow or travelling you'd add a little more tar or a little less.

KH: More tar would make them run faster?

JP: Well that was more for travelling - it would stick a little bit.

KH: You'd <sup>use</sup> less tar if the snow was slow and wet?

JP: Well in all probability - harder wax for drier snow. If you wanted to go out for a day's travel well you wouldn't have real hard wax on, you'd have ... stick your finger nail into it - that meant that it wasn't too bad. A bit like your Klister but not as soft.

KH: When did you change to other bindings? I image that in the 1920s these would have been a few people who had come down from Sydney with European style skis!

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JP: There weren't very many who came in my time when I was a kid there. My first pair were a home made pair. You'd buy the buckles for 2/6, used a bit of greenhide (that was my first pair) and we had toe irons. The greenhide didn't work, it would get wet and stretch. Of course you were mad to use that sort of thing - you could break your leg according to the old timers.

KH: Did you use two stocks or a stick?

JP: On one stick or none at that time.

KH: When did you start with more modern skis?

JP: When I was about 13 years old. In those days there was a chap there who would make toe irons out of a piece of angle iron, they were a screwed on fixture that fitted the shape of your boot. Quite a few had a slot underneath to run a strap through and then on to your buckles - the tightening arrangement. That would be the kick off of it.

KH: What about the heel, how did you secure it?

JP: Well it wasn't secured in those days, more like a touring type binding, in fact a lot of them came off the toe iron.

KH: When did you first use a Kandahar?

JP: Oh I suppose I was 17. I had 'Al Peters' - that was the in-binding at that time when I was 15. When the down-pull came in - that was Kandahar. I was 17 or 18 perhaps.

KH: Your brother was pretty good too wasn't he. The champion whizz jumper from Kiandra.

MRS P: 'Silver Billy' they used to call him. They had a photo of him up at Kossie.

JP: Yes he was a natural jumper, gosh he could jump.

MRS P: He was only a little bit of a pint of a thing too.

JP: He was four years younger than me.

KH: How did you come to go to the Kosciusko hotel? Were you invited to participate there?

JP: Originally no. We nominated and went over to race. We were going to have a crack at it. We stayed at the Hotel or Chalet.

KH: They didn't mind Kiandra locals coming to stay at the very posh Hotel?

JP: As a matter of fact our standard was a lot above theirs. I remember the first time we went over to Kossie, we got there just after breakfast on the Grand Slam for we must go up for a run. My brother and I went up, had a run and there would be a couple of hundred people lined up - "Would you sign your autograph please!" We thought we were made.

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- KH: That was straight running?
- JP: Yes well, slalom running was just coming in on our side of the range.
- KH: Did someone teach you at any stage or did you pick it up along the way?
- JP: Yes.
- KH: Did you get involved with slalom?
- JP: Yes, a lot. They had a slalom and a downhill in those days. As you know the giant slalom is a mixture of the two. I think in those days our downhill was a good deal faster than the present day giant slaloms. They were a lot straighter. By gosh down off Townsend, on one occasion, about 2 miles of it!!
- KH: Not the Eagle run?
- JP: I wouldn't know, it didn't have a name in those days.
- KH: There is a run somewhere above the site of Kunama hut, off Mt Lee, that's called the Eagle run where if you attain a certain speed you get a badge.
- JP: Well they were built since the days I was speaking of.
- KH: So you also skied at the Chalet?
- JP: Oh yes, and at Hotham and Buller with the State team.
- KH: Were you supported financially?
- JP: No, very strictly amateur. We even had to buy our own blue sweaters, the State colours.
- MRS P: He went to New Zealand once to represent NSW and were not even given green shirts, only a badge.
- KH: Did you buy the new type skis at some stage?
- JP: Oh yes, two or three pairs bought through a Norwegian who came to Kiandra one winter. When he left there he opened up a business in Sydney - Ray Newton was his name.
- KH: Did they have steel edges?
- JP: No, you had to put them on yourself. When we went over there first we didn't have steel edges - you'd do a turn and slide fifty yards, you know!
- KH: What sort of turns did you make, stem turns, parallels, Telemarks?
- JP: No, mostly a stem Christie.
- KH: So you'd go into a bit of a snowplough and then bring the other ski around!
- JP: Oh yes, you'd hardly notice it, but if you tracked yourself you'd see just the slightest stem - that's at high speed. Sort of a Kiandra turn - very similar to the Arlberg technique.

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- KH: But knees apart, fairly broadly based.
- JP: Yes the faster you went the wider you were.
- KH: Bill Hughes told me that the Arlberg technique wasn't all that different from what the Kiandra locals knew. He said, "We taught him a few things".
- MRS P: It went right out but then a few years ago <sup>it</sup> came back in - almost identical it was. There was no bend-the-knees as the fellows said.
- JP: Well now they put the weight on the wrong foot as far as I'm concerned, the weight was on the outside, now its on the inside.
- KH: Did you go to two stocks when you bought your first pair of skis?
- JP: Yes, be about the same time.
- KH: Did that make a big different to your skiing?
- JP: Oh, yes, <sup>we</sup> used to buy wax by that time. Our Moko wasn't so good for the higher country, it was colder at the Chalet. Plus the fact you couldn't carry a blow lamp and a pot of Moko around with you. So we bought little packets of wax. Moko was best for milder conditions.
- KH: Did you ski off Mt Selwyn?
- JP: Oh yes, plenty of times.
- MRS P: You mean the Pig Gully run - oh he's skied that hundreds of times - our kids have even skied that - oh yes when they were little kids. Our daughter would lead them out and lead them back.
- KH: Did you come straight down that run?
- JP: Oh yes. We used to go out there occasionally for the club championships if there wasn't enough snow at Kiandra. That has happened a few times.
- KH: Was that run cleared in your time?
- JP: Oh yes. That was cleared about 40 <sup>years</sup> ago (1940s).
- KH: Fred Bernhardt's hut (Pig Gully) would have been a much more substantial structure then wouldn't it?
- JP: Oh yes, I've been there when he was there. He'd go away in the winter and come back in the summer.
- KH: Apparently some chinamen mined there before him!
- JP: Oh, there could have been, I don't know.
- KH: Ted Quinn said he'd been there.
- JP: I can remember Gladdie Quinn - his brother but not Ted. They were there for 6 months or so, two or three of them. Don Quinn his grandfather was there too.
- KH: Did he find much gold there?
- JP: No, I don't think so. Just enough to keep alive.
- KH: Did you do any long ski tours such as the hotel to summit run a Kiandra to Kossie?

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JP: No, not really I've been across from Kiandra but not in one go exactly. For different reasons I did parts of it at a time. Then sometimes 3 or 4 of us would go to Whites River and train up ready for the Nationals. That was on either side of Whites River, up towards Gungarten and at the back of Whites River hut. We set up a slalom course, packed down if necessary. We'd go out, 3 or 4 Adaminaby chaps and myself, just locals, no chap from Sydney.

KH: I was surprised that you stayed at the Kosciusko hotel because you had to wear starched collars, bow ties and tails to get into the dining room and it could be a formidable event.

JP: Yes "she was a stiff dicky turnout all right". But I don't know that when we first went there. We'd have a navy suit but that would be it. We'd book in. There was a fella who came to Kiandra who encouraged us to race at Kossie - Arthur Stone it was..

MRS P: We had a photo he sent us and on the back he'd written "to be a good skier you have to have good equipment". I can remember Bill still had big long stocks then. There was also a photo of him when he won the jump.

KH: Yes that's in an old Ski Year book.

JP: He was 11 and I was 15 the first time we went over. Bill went away to become an apprentice butcher, never represented Australia. That took him off the snow full-stop.

KH: Did you meet Tom and Elyne Mitchell?

JP: Yes skied against Tom. I never beat him in the slalom. I can remember Bertie Schlink at Kiandra when I was a kid - one winter it was. Thyne Reid was also there. But there weren't many more.

KH: Yes, some of the trips done to ski at Kiandra were written up in the Ski Year Book and it sounds as though there weren't many more - it was an exception to go Kiandra way.

MRS P: That is until later on when the Youth hostel, the Hotel and the Club opened. Straight after the war Kiandra started to boom. We had the Youth Hostel, the Bushwackers Club and the Kiandra Pioneer Ski Club - it used to be a good round up.

KH: Do you remember Charles Kerry the photographer?

JP: No, before my day.

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KH: Do you remember any of your school teachers at Kiandra?

JP: Well when I went there my sisters were teachers there, the two of them.

KH: Did they teach you?

JP: Yes.

MRS P: Didn't you know that Patterson bloke?

JP: No, because when they left the post office that's when we took over.

KH: You would have know<sup>e</sup> Bill Patrick<sup>^</sup>?

JP: Oh yes, we both lived in the same place for a life time.

KH: He was a champion skier too wasn't he?

JP: He was good down that township course.

KH: Did you race against him?

JP: Yes, a bit not much.

KH: He was a fair bit older than you wasn't he?

JP: Yes, he was sort of going off as I was coming on.

KH: He was 83 when he died in 1973.

You all went straight down the hill on that Kiandra run - why was one better than another? and what was the deciding thing?

JP: That was the Moko.

KH: Not body weight?

JP: A bit of that would come into it - the body weight if the snow was hard, yes. If the snow was soft - the light weight. I can recall when the finals for the championship, there was George<sup>Doran</sup>, Bill Patrick<sup>e</sup> and my brother Bill, he would be about 10 I suppose - they were in the final. Of course the older two, they were watching one another, you line up, ready, set go - from the top straight down. My brother hopped out and cleaned the two of them up. The snow conditions had suited him, he was only about 8 stone, even less.

KH: There's a story of Burgess and another chap who had three dead heats and in the fourth race Burgess won the cup, there was a poem written about it.

JP: Yes, the poem was probably written by Christie He.therington. But I don't have any copies. There was "1909" - a poem - in one of the ski books. It was when quite a few lived in Lobbs Hole and how they came up to the snow shoe races at Kiandra.

KH: Do you remember any of that?

JP: No, all I remember is that the end of each verse was '1909'.

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MRS P: There was one your father was in too, wasn't there?  
 JP: Not that I know of.  
 MRS P: It was about where he used to ski at Adaminaby. Don't you remember that?  
 JP: No.  
 MRS P: Well Dad must have had it - used to buckle on the ski, give a cooeee and start for Adaminaby.  
 KH: What about the story of your mother bandaging up Bill Hughes after he'd skied to the summit of Kossie without his gloves on.  
 JP: Yes he had frostbitten hands. Poor chap, she made him a huge pair of mittens, there was cotton wool in the padding to keep them warm all the time. He stayed at home because he couldn't fend for himself very well. I can remember seeing these purple fingers - oh dear.  
 KH: Apparently they all went black and he lost his fingernails.  
 JP: Yes, that's right.  
 MRS P: You had a touch of frostbite yourself at one time - on the trip to Kossie, didn't you.  
 KH: To the summit?  
 JP: No, we were going into the Alpine Hut - through the Snowy Plains. We were going to go right across the top, two other chaps and myself - Sydney fellows - and the blizzard kept on. This was '46 I think.  
 MRS P: Yes, I think it was because it was '46 when we went to Canberra, when we had the real heavy weather and the road was closed.  
 JP: Anyway, it snowed and snowed and snowed, blizzards. We kept putting it off and putting it off. These chaps were running out of time you see. They said we'll go into Alpine Hut and go from there across to the Chalet - you still have to come with us - we were mates you know. So away we went and by gee it was still blizzardy, it got dark and we didn't find the hut.  
 MRS P: They would have done only they had a compass and they wouldn't go by the compass. You kept reckoning it was the wrong way and they reckoned it wasn't.  
 JP: Yeah, we didn't go far enough up. Anyway we built a dug-out in the snow. We had three aluminium plates and we used those as shovels and built it about six feet deep and six feet across and put a ground sheet over a portion of the top of it. I think we had a ledge in it too, and built a fire in it and stayed until the smoke would hunt you out and you'd go out and the blizzard would hunt you back in. <sup>It was a cruel night.</sup> We never got there, we came back out the next morning, part of the way. Kidman's hut, have you ever been in there?  
 KH: Yes I heard of Kidmans, but I haven't been there yet.

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JP: We came back down to Kidman's hut and about 2 o'clock the next day - we were there at 5 o'clock in the afternoon before and we got back there at 2 o'clock the next day - blind with the smoke.  
 MRS P: Didn't you go down to Eastbourne then?  
 JP: I don't know, I think we stayed the night.  
 MRS P: You had to go on, one fellow couldn't go. I remember that because I was in Canberra and I was nearly frantic because nobody could find you. Everywhere they looked for them they weren't there. I rang up the Chalet to see if they ... no, Mrs Reed rang me to say you hadn't turned up at the Chalet. They sent somebody out to look for them but they hadn't located them. I had several calls from Canberra to Kossie and then back to Kiandra and so forth. I think <sup>there</sup> was the girl at Adaminaby chipped in on the call and she'd just got the call from Eastbourne - remember?  
 JP: Yes, once we started out I came out ahead to get a taxi out to pick us up.  
 MRS P: Because this girl knew us and she said, 'you wouldn't be looking for Jim would you, hang on a minute and I'll put him on'. They turned up at Fletchers at Eastbourne.  
 KH: Which Fletcher was that?  
 JP: Laurie Fletcher.  
 MRS P: His parents had the phone didn't they?  
 JP: His mother yes, his father wasn't living there... and sisters too.  
 KH: So you didn't get into the Alpine?  
 JP: No.  
 KH: That was in 1946?  
 JP: Yes.  
 KH: Apparently that was the time when Ken Breakspear skied a lot of the way into Alpine from Cooma Railway station, along the side of the road.  
 JP: That could be too.  
 MRS P: There was snow from Bega to Talbingo wasn't it?  
 JP: I think so, there was about three feet <sup>of</sup> it <sup>in at Cooma</sup> at that time.  
 KH: He said you could hardly see Alpine Hut, you could barely see the chimney, there was so much snow there. That was a bad year to be out. There must have been blizzards for weeks on end that year.  
 JP: There were three fine days in July - that's not too many is it.  
 MRS P: Of course we didn't have the snow clearing equipment that they had after the Snowy started. The road had been opened and Jim skied down one day and was talking to the roadman and they said that if

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it snowed again they couldn't possibly open it because they didn't have anywhere to put the snow. It was banked up - well you couldn't see up over it. If you were driving along in the car you had no hope of seeing over the top of the bank of snow.

KH: That's when you need a blower to blow it out over the top.

MRS P: I remember it quite well because our kids weren't very big then, they'd be only 4 and 8. He came home and he said I think you'll have to leave - it's no place for two little kids if you can't get out. He always remembered his own sister had to be taken out by sled when she had appendicitis. We went out somewhere towards the end of July and it snowed that night and the road was closed for six weeks, before they got it open.

KH: You got out of Kiandra?

MRS P: Yes.

JP: I think it was before that.

MRS P: It might have been the middle of July, it was in July anyway.

KH: And then it really started?

MRS P: Oh no, there was piles of it then. They had managed to open the road until then. We went out by car, we had to take all our clothing down to the road - I suppose they took it down by sled - we got a taxi out I guess.

JP: It started early - they had the road blocked on the 12 June. That's when the old chap used to open the Chalet.

MRS P: That's right, that's when you fellas went through.

JP: We managed to get out, it took us two or three days, but we got to Adaminaby.

MRS P: The road was still blocked to Coom<sup>a</sup> then wasn't it - all down through the mountains - snow right down to Brown Mountain.

The road wasn't open for six weeks, but of course the conditions weren't very good even then. We went back to Kiandra in October and all the township, on our side, it was all still unbroken, ... there was snow everywhere.

KH: Were you in the same house then as you are now?

MRS P: Yes.

KH: When did you build that?

MRS P: 1945.

KH: You used some timber from another place didn't you?

JP: Yes, most of it was secondhand. Part of it was the store and butcher shop, or the majority of it was.

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KH: Did that heavy snow effect the building at all? Did some buildings cave in and that sort of thing, at Kiandra?

JP: I don't think so.

MRS P: Our place was completely snowed over. You could ski right down and up and over.

JP: I had to shovel it off afterwards.

MRS P: That's what a lot of people ... they didn't have enough fall for it to fall off, they used to shovel it off, to stop the weight from caving it in.

KH: There must have been a lot of loss of wildlife in a winter like that?

JP: Yes, wombats and rabbits were finished and the foxes left, the birds had gone - wasn't a sign of life.

MRS P: We had photos one year there, the early part when there was heavy snow and we had five wombats that used to come down to the house.

KH: There's quite a few there now.

JP: Dingoes ... they'd howl of a night. I think it would be safe to say that just around the area, close by, there would be a dozen. You'd hear four, mum and dad and a couple of pups howling away. And then occasionally on the other township side, there would be mum and dad and a couple of pups, but the pups couldn't howl as well as the others, so you knew there were two lots. I saw a couple too as a matter of fact.

KH: Is that the most you ever heard?

JP: Yes, I hardly ever heard one before and I'd never seen one in its wild state. We saw two there one morning.

KH: All your riding round as a ranger for the Trust you never saw a dingo.

JP: No, we tracked them.

MRS P: They wouldn't allow it, they had dingo trappers.

KH: Did you have pigs here last summer?

MRS P: Did we what.

JP: Eighteen of them in one batch, right at the house, or in the creek - 50 yards away.

KH: Yes, because they're just up in the creek now, where the school used to be.

MRS P: Yes, we couldn't believe our eyes one day.

KH: Did you learn a trade or something Jim, when you were younger?

JP: No, just a stockman.

KH: You didn't do much mining then, didn't work with your father?

JP: No.

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JP: I had three months in a tunnel, I'd forgotten that.

MRS P: When we first got married you worked in a tunnel.

KH: Which tunnel was that?

JP: It was on New Chum Hill - He<sup>u</sup>therington started it off - a syndicate of four started it off then a company took it over.

KH: Who was the main person who put the money in for that one?

JP: It was a Melbourne firm but I don't know who represented the firm.

KH: Did they get any gold out of that one?

JP: No, nothing to speak of.

KH: You went <sup>into</sup> the wash?

JP: Oh yes. You'd drive it in then jump up.

KH: Did you have a steam engine and stamper battery and so on for that job.

JP: No, just pick and trap out the wash.

KH: You washed it?

JP: Well, put it into the boxes, yes.

KH: I remember you telling me about the story of you riding out to the Lorna Doone - got some supplies when your father had the shop!

JP: I used to pack all round - Elaine, Lorna Doone, Eight Mile, Three Mile.

KH: Who was out at the Lorna Doone at the time? Do you remember?

JP: A chap named Watson - Tom Watson.

KH: That would have been soon after you went to Kiandra, 1924-25?

JP: I suppose I would have been about 15 or 14.

KH: That would be 1932, '17 you were born - 1931 you would have been riding out to the Lorna Doone.

JP: Probably, about that time I'd imagine, I was only there once that I can remember.

KH: They were still working out there then?

JP: Well it had started up again.

KH: Because they started in the early 20s I think, didn't they?

JP: Yes, it had been abandoned for years and then these two chaps came up ....

KH: Tom Watson and another guy.

JP: Yes.

KH: Wasn't one of the Foy's involved in that, Chester Foy.

JP: Chester Foy - what was he involved in! He was involved in the original Giandarra (?) tunnel I think?

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KH: Was he? North of Kiandra?

JP: Yes.

KH: Six Mile or something?

JP: No, Giandarra(?) Before my time.

KH: He was also involved in the Lorna Doone, apparently in the early 20s.

JP: That could be too.

KH: Was the stamper battery and all that still standing at Lorna Doone when you went down there?

JP: Well I think so.

KH: It's lying there now, they've taken the stampers out and you know the top structure - cans and what have you and the big fly wheel - it's all lying down now, as though it was taken apart, maybe in order to take it out again, but they never did. Whereas the steam engine and the boiler is all still sitting there where it was used, *but all overgrown.*

JP: They'd never get it out would they.

KH: So there were two of them there when you went out there - you took supplies down.

JP: Yes.

KH: They were still working in the tunnel then?

JP: Well I can't recall whether they were in the tunnel or just getting things ready - it fizzled out anyway, didn't last very long.

KH: Soon after that.

JP: Yeah, I don't know whether they were there one summer or two summers. They bought a load of cement to Kiandra, *it* never ever went out - I remember that.

KH: To go out there?

JP: Yes.

KH: What was that for?

JP: Well they were going to set something up, I don't know ...

KH: Foundations or something?

JP: It must have been - about a ton of it I'd imagine.

KH: The tunnels collapsed now. You can see probably where it was. You said that you went fishing down to Tumut or something.

JP: Yes, with one of them - I walked on down.

KH: That's the easiest way up now - go in a boat on the dam, come up the dam and then walk up - much easier.

JP: To get to Lorna Doone?

KH: Yes.

JP: Yes, it would be. How far above the head of the dam would that

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be?

KH: It's still on the dam, it's stored water down below the Lorna Doone.

JP: Oh, is there?

KH: Yes. The dam goes up higher.

Who was working at the Elaine when you went there?

JP: Bob and Billy Hughes, Dick Cook - they were three of the main ones.

KH: Dick Cook - Bill Hughes tells some funny stories about Dick - Gavin Cook - Richard Gavin Cook. He's one that really sticks in Bill's mind, in memory. Apparently he could not only touch his hands on the ground but also his elbows!

JP: My word, I can recall that. Richard Gavin's sister's boy could do the same - Dick's nephew.

MRS P: Is that the Dick we used to play cards with?

JP: No, that's Tom his brother.

KH: Richard Gavin Cook was a miner?

JP: Yes, in his later years anyway.

KH: There was just the three of them there when you were there.

JP: After that there were more - that would be when it was formed into a company. I remember two or three more there, but they wouldn't be permanent. They might have been burning wood to get the charcoal for their forge - that sort of thing perhaps.

KH: Do you remember Harry Burgess.

JP: No, oh, Henry.

KH: Henry Burgess!

JP: Yes.

KH: Would he have been a brother of Harry.

JP: I don't know any Harry.

KH: Did Henry work on the mines?

JP: Henry worked in the mines - he worked at New Chum Hill - the one that I was in. He was in it prior to that, he was kicked off. He and another fellow and the two Hetheringtons. That was the syndicate who started off that. He lived in Queanbeyan.

KH: I think it's the same one that I know. I thought he called himself Harry, maybe he's Henry.

JP: It's much the same - Henry/Harry.

KH: He used to be a cleaner at the University.

JP: That's right, that's him.

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KH: I know him, I've spoken to him.

He said he worked on the Elaine for a while.

JP: He may have done too, I can't recall.

KH: Do you remember the end of the Elaine. Apparently they had a big fire out there.

JP: Yes, it was burnt out.

KH: But you only went out there once <sup>or</sup> twice?

JP: Oh no, I was regular, every week to the Elaine.

KH: Taking their meat and so on.

JP: Yes, that's right.

KH: What sort of food did they eat out there?

JP: Well, Bob - his order was 6 lbs of corn round, and 2 lbs steak, he reckoned that was the best buy, particularly if he had to carry it himself. He said he wasn't going to carry bone out there - 6 or 7 miles or whatever it was.

MRS P: He used to still walk out there when we first were living up the gully there - old Bob, didn't he.

JP: He'd walk in and out every weekend.

KH: Did they eat any vegetables or anything like that. Did you also take out potatoes?

JP: Yes, just the normal things.

KH: Did they eat green vegetables or anything like that much?

JP: They wouldn't get them through us, because we didn't carry that sort of thing, they may have grown a cabbage or two or turnips, swedes.

MRS P: You grew the most beautiful turnips in the world at Kiandra.

JP: Oh yes, huge, too.

MRS P: The things that you'd buy out here, you wouldn't bother pulling them if you had anything that size.

JP: One year there at Kiandra I had a patch in - I weighed the two biggest ones - one was 15 lbs and one was 13 lbs and solid too.

KH: That was one of the most productive things then?

JP: Yes.

KH: Not much would grow at Kiandra would it.

MRS P: Parsnips and carrots.

JP: They were nice and sweet but not very big.

MRS P: We used to grow lettuce in the summer time. A few times we grew beans didn't we - very seldom because the frost would get them. Peas we grew a few times.

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JP: Peas were alright. Potatoes you were a bit uphill. You might get or you mightn't ... I recall Bob Hughes saying, when he had a house in town there afterwards, if he retired and put a lot of time in the garden and he had a patch of potatoes - he had kept count - the frost had cut them seven times.

KH: Cut them back?

JP: Yes, burnt the tops off.

KH: But you 'd get a crop of potatoes there wouldn't you?

JP: Well it's about the borderline, if it's not too bad a summer you would, pretty severe you wouldn't.

KH: You wouldn't be able to put them in until about November I suppose.

MRS P: That's the trouble, the season wasn't really long enough for things like that.

KH: I suppose you took flour out to the Elaine?

JP: Yes, they'd bake their own bread.

MRS P: Dry balm I suppose.

KH: What's dry balm?

JP: That's a sort of a yeast - in a tin and then it would <sup>n't</sup> go bad like the other ordinary yeast.

KH: Apparently some of them used to keep a kind of yeast in a jar in the fire place - Lindsay Willis told me about it, at Mawsons. It wasn't normal sort of yeast it was some - I can't remember the name of it - it was some living substance anyway.

MRS P: Like that stuff they used to make the ginger beer out of I suppose.

JP: I vaguely recall that. We used to get compressed yeast - it was a case of everybody would make their own bread in the winter time, in those days.

KH: You mean a chunk of yeast - solid?

JP: Yes. What you did with that, I've forgotten. I remember mum boiling up potatoes until they were real squashy. Whether the yeast went in that or not I don't know, I've forgotten.

KH: I interviewed Lindsay Willis - have you heard of him at all.

JP: I don't think so.

KH: He's ten years or more older than you, but he was a stockman around Mawsons and so on.

JP: Oh yes.

KH: He helped in building Mawsons.

MRS P: I remember the name - it might be in one of those books or something.

JP: I think I may have met him at Mawsons one summer.

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MRS P: I tell you what he was in once - do you remember that cutting from the Women's Weekly when Des Delaney and all those old stockmen - Angus McPhie and all that were written up - I think he was in that.

KH: You don't have that article do you?

MRS P: I have got it somewhere.

KH: I'd like to see that.

Lindsay you know - they used to make their own bread. Apparently all the old stockmen had this jar of something like yeast, they keep alive next to the warmth of the fire blazing.

With the food - it surprised me when I was talking to Lindsay, I mean the stockman, they'd live for weeks on flour, corned beef and one or two other things. They hardly ever had fresh vegetables or green vegetables were almost unheard of - things like eggs for instance, they hardly ever had eggs.

JP: No. You wouldn't put eggs on a pack horse to pack in would you. The same with your green vegs.

MRS P: They would grow a few root vegetables and pick them I suppose.

JP: Not on the side of that hill you couldn't grow anything (at Elaine)

KH: I can't remember seeing anything that looked like a veggy garden.

MRS P: Did they stop out there all the winter?

JP: Yes. It would matter. *He was a loquacious old chap.*  
I remember about Dicky Cook. <sup>^</sup> I took this order out and he

said 'I was sitting down writing out my winter order when a rat ran across the table - bang - got him - I immediately put down rat trap'.

KH: He was out there for a while was he?

JP: Oh a good while, yes, a long while.

KH: There's another guy called Jack Spring who also had another name.

JP: Yes Dave Collison.

KH: Why did he have two names?

JP: I think at one time - could have been at a shearing shed or something - he went along to represent this other fellow and he took his name - so they tell me. <sup>"I'm Jack Spring"</sup> <sup>^</sup> Dave Collison is his real name.

KH: Apparently some of them used to also jump ship and so because they didn't want to be caught, they took on another name.

MRS P: That would be possible too.

KH: What were his outstanding characteristics <sup>or</sup> anything?

JP: Oh fighting. He was a hard case. Marvellous sense of humour and very strong - drink like a fish - fight for the love of it - at the drop of a hat.

Jim Pattinson

KH: Did he win?  
 JP: Mostly I think.  
 KH: The fights they had in those days - how would they end - would it be one actually knocking the other badly about.  
 MRS P: Fight to the death.  
 JP: I suppose it would be.  
 KH: Or would it be separating them?  
 JP: I suppose it would be a bit of both wouldn't it. You take a fellow like Jack Spring, if he's evenly matched, well you wouldn't want to mix in too close to any of it.  
 KH: He worked out at the Elaine too, I think.  
 JP: I don't think so.  
 KH: Well he appears on some of the old photographs, but it mightn't have been to do with that.  
 JP: I saw one recently of him - the last six months - of the old copper mine.  
 KH: Down at Lobbs Hole?  
 JP: Yes. He was working there.  
 KH: That's right, that's where I got his name.  
 What about Jack Barnett - Ernie Barnett's son. He's about your age, perhaps a bit older.  
 JP: He is a bit older than me.  
 MRS P: He used to still come to Kiandra after we were married didn't he? Jack ... that's the one <sup>owned</sup> the place where Bob lived isn't it?  
 JP: Yes.  
 MRS P: He came up there after we were married.  
 JP: I saw him in '68 when we had the sheep up that drought year. We recognised one another, too, after nearly a life time. He had a boy down at the caves <sup>they</sup> used to put on those university fellows over Christmas, or something like that. He had a son down there - worked as a guide.  
 KH: His son was?  
 JP: Yes.  
 KH: He was a seasonal ranger or something.  
 JP: Well, probably lasted six weeks or something over the Xmas rush.  
 MRS P: One of them came to the house here, that time. It must have been Jack himself and he said his son was down there.  
 JP: Yes, that was it.

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KH: Because I met up with Jack's daughter, a couple of months ago through a course I ran. I heard about her - I got her father's address, he's up in Armidale now. I wrote to him and he sent me some photographs of the Elaine, some of which I had and also quite a long story about his life up in the mountains. He was absolutely tickled that someone could take so much interest in his life and so on. So he set it all down on paper which was good - it's a long way to go and interview him. He's got a small farm up there.

They were into building theatres - the Barnetts - in Sydney.

JP: Yes, he was a master builder

MRS P: He came up there once - Jack Barnett came up while we were at Kiandra - that's a long time ago - remember when Bob had his sister Edie there. Edie was the 'old maid' one wasn't she? *She* spent all one summer there with him once.

KH: Edie was the one who kept all the photographs together. It was her collection that I saw down at Adelong when I went to visit Jack's wife.

Apparently you stayed at a hut at the McGregor diggings, I remember you talking about that - that's up near <sup>Cook's</sup> Racecourse isn't it.

JP: Yes.

KH: This is after you had started as a ranger was it?

JP: No. There was a chap who wanted to go through to the Alpine Hut in the winter, so I jogged along with him to show him the track and have a bit of a spin.

KH: Did you take him in from Kiandra?

JP: Yes, from Kiandra into the Alpine Hut.

KH: Who was the <sup>guy</sup>?

JP: I wouldn't have a clue - he was a Sydney chap.

KH: That's quite amazing, that's quite a long journey.

JP: Yes. We were going to do it in one day you know.

KH: I'll say, that's a long haul.

JP: I hadn't been through there - I rode through years before once and we crossed Happy Jack's too low down - I've found out since - went up to the <sup>Crooks (?)</sup> Racecourse just about and got out on the other side - I didn't know whether there were any huts. I remembered this McGregor's hut - I'd been to it a few years before that. It was getting late and I said if you follow my tracks, I'll go searching. I found the hut alright but there was no roof on it - it was full of snow but at least you could light a fire in it. We put the night in there.

KH: You didn't know about Happy's Hut or Tabletop Hut?

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JP: Oh yes, we went past Tabletop, we were miles the other side of that.

KH: Well the next one would have been Happys or the Dip - Montagues!

JP: I didn't know those. We were going pretty well. Went out across Happys and then it started to peter out on me a bit.

KH: Across the other side of Happy Jack's Plain?

JP: Yes. We dropped into that hut - should be up this gully - and it was thank goodness.

KH: Then you made Alpine the next day.

JP: Yes.

MRS P: The stupid things you used to do!

JP: Then we came out through Snowy Plain - home.

KH: There used to be people mining in that creek didn't there <sup>oh</sup> / McGregor's Creek!

JP: Yes, there was a bit of mining done there.  
Another chap and I went out one year, we went from Kiandra across to there in the day, stayed the night with these two fellows that were mining there. The next day we went up around the top of Juganal and back to there. (Juganal)

KH: The roof was still on the hut then.

JP: Oh they were living there.

KH: Do you remember who that was?

JP: Herb Wright and Jack Morrissey.

KH: Where did Jack Morrissey come from?

JP: He was more or less a local. Used to be an old dog trapper. Most of those fellows, they'd be there in the summer and go away in the winter.

KH: He didn't have a horse?

JP: He had a horse, but I don't know whether he had a horse paddock. I think that might have been a bit of a problem.  
He'd walk into Adaminaby across the Eucumbene.

MRS P: The old Adaminaby.

KH: Parts of the cemetery are still under the dam aren't they?

JP: Yes.

KH: Jack Morrissey apparently built that hut.

JP: I'd say so. *A bit of sluicing in the creek.*

KH: That was alluvial mining. He also worked at the Grey Mare mine - is that right?

JP: I think it would be.

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MRS P: He was quite a nice old gentleman.

KH: Was he married?

MRS P: I don't think so.

KH: It seems as though there were quite a few guys, single, wandering the hills, popping <sup>p</sup> <sup>up</sup> here ...

JP: Yes. Jack Spring, he was a bachelor and Dicky Cook, quite a few.

END CASSETTE 1, SIDE 2.

JIM PATTINSON

Cassette 2, Side 3

MRS P: .... to the snow this weekend ...

KH: He slaughters his own meat up there.

MRS P: Well he's only just started the farm. He's been doing a carpentry job on the next door neighbours up there and stopping in the house on his own farm and he didn't have anything, only a few chooks and the chap who he was working for had a few that he was selling, so he bought half a dozen heifers from him and I think he said he got 20 lambs, just to have for killers and he has got a little bit of green grass because he hasn't had anything on the place. Well most of the places up there are bare because there's been the drought. This one fellow that he got the cattle from, he's got some cattle on <sup>Balranald</sup> agistment out at - way out to billy-ho. It was the only place they could get anything.

KH: Can I just come back to a little bit of your story? You were born in Adaminaby.

MRS P: Yes that's right.

KH: What's your Christian name?

MRS P: Annie.

KH: I've never heard your Christian name, it's always Jim Pattinson and his wife. What was your maiden name?

MRS P: Thorpe.

KH: But that wasn't a mountain family, that was from somewhere else, lower down somewhere.

MRS P: My father's people came out from England to Adaminaby. My father was only 4 when they came out. You know what was the old two storey place in Adaminaby, the big square ...

KH: I never saw old Adaminaby.

MRS P: It's still there, they've taken one floor off it. That Paddy Kerfigan who has the boats owns it now. They had it built as a boarding house not long after they came out there.

KH: So you were born in Adaminaby. So you spent most of your time there until you married Jim.

MRS P: Yes.

KH: Did you ever ski in Adaminaby?

MRS P: Oh a little bit, as kids.

KH: Because you would have had snow wouldn't you?

MRS P: Oh yes, we used to have snow, nothing like they had at Kiandra. When we were kids we had a lot more snow than what they had in later years.

Jim Pattinson

MRS P: We just used to muck around a bit, as kids, that was all. Sort of in your own backyard more than anything else.

KH: Did you ever go to Kiandra as a child, to go skiing or holiday?

MRS P: No. My sister used to go up there sometimes, playing tennis. We used to go through there to the caves for picnics and things like that.

KH: Did you go swimming in the thermal pool?

MRS P: Oh yes, I've been in the pool, there at the caves, when I was younger.

KH: What about the other way, did you ever go up to the Kosciusko Hotel?

MRS P: No, I was no skier, never interested in anything like that. I had enough to go out to school and then go to work <sup>in it.</sup> I used to work in the post office, you'd work differ<sup>ent</sup> shifts as a telephonist. Some mornings we used to have to start work at seven o'clock.

KH: At the Adaminaby Post Office?

MRS P: Yes.

KH: That was your first job was it, after you left school?

MRS P: Yes, on the exchange. It was a bit different - a different cry then to what it is now - you also did all country mails and that sort of thing too. We used to deliver all the telegraphs, there was no such thing as having a boy to do anything like that, you used to have to walk and deliver the telegrams.

KH: You had a push bike though I suppose?

MRS P: No, nothing - walked.

KH: I thought push bikes were fairly popular.

MRS P: Oh there were push bikes, but they never had them at the post office. No, I never rode a push bike.

KH: So you didn't go up to Kiandra until you got married?

MRS P: No. We lived, what was the Police Station later on - we lived there. We went from there to Yarrangobilly.

KH: You went to Yarrangobilly for a while.

MRS P: Yes, we lived there for three years I think. I think Alan was 2½ when we first went there and Betty was born while we were there. Yes, we'd have been there a good three years. Right in the very middle of the pine plantation where the old original nursery was, we lived.

KH: Did you stay on in Kiandra during the winter?

MRS P: Yes, except for one winter, the winter of '46, we left. Occasionally we went away, half way through the winter, down to Jim's sisters. We had plenty of winters there.

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KH: Did you ski then?

MRS P: No, walked.

KH: It seems incredible to me now, I mean I'd be up skiing as much as I could I suppose.

MRS P: Well everybody says, 'why don't you ski'. I said, 'well if you had two small children, well Betty was only three and of course Alan was better, he soon got the hang of it and was older and could look after himself. She was three and of course she expected to go out in the snow every time that Alan did and she'd get wet and cold and come in and you'd just get her thawed out and into clear, dry clothes and everything and she'd want to go again. Your washing was such a problem to get things dry, we had lines up in the kitchen - you'd get a nice sunny day, but quite often you'd put the washing on the line and it would freeze as you were putting there. Then it always had to be aired off. I said, I saw enough of wet clothes without going out myself and getting ... I couldn't ski really ...

KH: The washing would still be done with a boiler wouldn't it.

MRS P: You boiled your copper, boil your sheets in a copper with a wood fire underneath it. We didn't have any water inside either in those days - no running water - it ran outside and you'd have to carry all the water in.

KH: It ran down a race line?

MRS P: We had a pipe line down from up the spring - no tap - it ran all the time. We had some years like that didn't we, darling, before we put the water inside.

KH: That wouldn't freeze up.

MRS P: Never froze up - it would be covered with snow and you'd have to go and mop a bit of snow away and water would still be running down.

KH: Once you got the running water inside the house it would freeze up wouldn't it?

MRS P: What we'd do, we'd lift the pipe line - we've got a hole up where the spring is, and we'd just lift the pipe out.

KH: And let it run dry and then put it back in again.

MRS P: Yes, otherwise you'd have burst pipes. Even when we were living there sometimes, you'd have a burst tap if you happened to forget to turn it on and leave it running overnight - we used to leave it running in the laundry or something like that - well you were right then. But several times we had a burst tap or pipe, with the heavy frosts.

KH: When did you move away from Kiandra?

MRS P: 1962/63!

KH: So you were there for nearly twenty years?

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MRS P: Yes, we were.

KH: That was a long time for you to be there wasn't it, under fairly hard conditions.

MRS P: Well they were hard conditions, but you see in the early days when we first there - the first winter was a bit raw, wasn't it mate. We didn't have the back verandah done in, we had a shed further up the back where we had our wood.

KH: This is the present house?

MRS P: Yes. We didn't have either verandahs done in when we first went there. In fact we didn't have a back verandah when we first went there did we, we just had the place. Then we put a verandah on, but it was just an open verandah. We must have done it in first because we had the wood underneath that then. We had just an open verandah on the front because - I can remember one night in the early days of the <sup>Snowy</sup> and the roads were all closed - it must have been just about when they first got the snow cats wasn't it, when Kay came that night and there'd been a heavy fall of snow early and caught everybody ... you know ... the <sup>Snowy</sup> lot were down under canvas at Tumut Ponds ... was there a camp at the Three Mile there ... before Cabramurra wasn't it. There must have only been the one there at Tumut Ponds and the little one there at Kiandra was it? Well there was one at Kiandra because don't you remember they were out of food too.

JP: I remember coming through but I ....

MRS P: Anyway this chap, a Scotsman he was, we knew him quite well - he was coming up with the snow cat with supplies - he and another chap and their lights went on them ... coming up the Alpine or <sup>over</sup> at Sawyers somewhere ...

JP: Way back a bit yes.

MRS P: A long way back - and he drove from there, in the dark, in this snow cat, there was a terrific blizzard on and when they got over on the corner down - what we call the Cricket Flat, you know up the top of <sup>the cutting</sup>

KH: Hospital Hill?

MRS P: Yes ... he saw our lights and he reckoned he was right then and he came in along there and he was making for our place to see if he could fix his lights. He said, all of a sudden the light went out and we heard this terrific noise and in those days we had just a pressure light, I remember we used to have it hanging in the kitchen. Charlie Fletcher was with us this time, stopping with us for some skiing. The boys said 'we'll have to go and investigate this' - so they unhooked the light, I don't know why - we couldn't have had a torch or anything and they went up the hall

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and out onto the front verandah, which was open you see and Scotty said, 'Gee', he said, 'I thought I was done for' because he was making up and there was that great big hole, up the side there. He had visions of himself ending up in that.

JP: He wasn't far off it either.

MRS P: Then all of a sudden the light appeared. They couldn't hear him then. I can still remember because when they opened the front door - tell you how much of a blizzard there was - the snow just blew in and straight down the hall. I can still see him with this broom sweeping the snow straight out down the hall and out the back.

Things weren't really easy, I can tell you. I didn't have any inclination to learn to ski when I had all that to put up with.

KH: How many people were in Kiandra then?

This is in the 40s - 40s and 50s.

MRS P: Well there were quite a lot in the summer time. There were the Reeds who had the Chalet and the post office people, Bob Hughes, and us. I suppose that would be all, would it, dad?

JP: I don't think there would be any more.

MRS P: Cec Hertherington was at the Chalet then. That would be all. There was a lot more houses then of course, but people used to go away - they were people who brought their stock up in the summer time.

KH: So they'd have houses and would only use them in the summer.

MRS P: One time there was a chap who worked on the Snowy who was there all one winter - he and his wife stopped in there - he might have been there two winters - George.

JP: He could have been.

MRS P: Oh and there was the - the Youth Hostel was going then too - there was people there all the winter.

KH: That was actually run by the Youth Hostel Association.

MRS P: It was one of their first wasn't it? It was their first hostel up there I think.

JP: I suppose it would be.

MRS P: Their first in New South Wales.

KH: I'm surprised it was pulled down. They had to go from there did they?

JP: I'm not sure whether they had to go or whether they shifted over to Kossie side, because they built one over there.

KH: At Thredbo.

JP: Yes, somewhere over there.

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MRS P: Paddy Pallin used to come up there. He was one of the instigators when it first started.

KH: Was he?

MRS P: Oh yes, my word.

KH: So you've met Paddy?

MRS P: Oh we know Paddy. It used to go all the time.

The bushwalkers one - when did it start up? It was there for quite some years too. Before ever we had a license or anything at Kiandra there was always the Youth Hostel and this other bushwalker's club - they changed it to the Kiandra Ski Club, not the Pioneer Ski Club, they just call<sup>d</sup> it the Kiandra Ski Club. There was quite a lot of people around in those days. Then when the Snowy had their camp along side the Chalet there, they used to run the amenities office, he used to come out from Cooma with the pictures every week, so we used to walk down ... the stupid things you think of - because we were a lot younger and we didn't notice it so much. But I can remember one night we left there and it was snowing - you couldn't see a hand in front of you, but we had to go down to go to the pictures. It was a real novelty for us in Kiandra because we never had anything like that in the winter time. We always went out on Thursday because Thursday was sports day for the club and we mainly had dinner that night at the Chalet and the prize-giving was after dinner you see. Jim used to be in for a kick-off and the kids were in it - that was their one day a week out. Quite often the night we'd go down to the pictures we'd go down and end up at the Youth Hostel - you'd have supper there and a yarn and go on and play table tennis and things like that till perhaps 1 or 2 o'clock and then have to turn around and walk home again.

KH: The school was finished by then wasn't it, there was no school in Kiandra then - they went down to Adaminaby.

MRS P: They had correspondence lessons. My son came down here when he was about 11 years and stopped with my sister, but Betty, she only ever had correspondence lessons.

KH: What was your main source of heating? Just open fires.

MRS P: Yes, and we had a wood heater in the lounge and an open fire and a wood stove in the kitchen.

KH: Nothing in the bedrooms?

MRS P: No, nothing.

KH: What did you sleep under - blankets?

MRS P: Yes, and we had an eiderdown and hot water bottles - that's all you had.

KH: One hot water bottle?

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MRS P: Oh two and I've seen the time we've gone with three. Never under two.

JP: One winter I was there on my own, it must have been spring I think - cold anyway. I used to take a water bag to bed. This day I went to Adaminaby and one of my mate's there, Bruce ...

MRS P: I know what you're going to say, I can remember the day quite well.

JP: ... 'Oh well I might go up with you and stay the night' he said. 'OK mate'. So up we come - go to bed, he's in that room and I'm in this room, so I went in, in the early hours of the morning and took another water bag in, when I discovered I'd forgotten to take the other one out, it was icy cold. Anyway he was entitled to wake up early, this fellow, and he woke up and he's talking through the wall, yakkety yak - 'I can't hear, wait and I'll come in'. So he <sup>hoped</sup> to have a yarn, put one foot on each bag - 'By Christ, this is better than the Hotel Australia', he said, 'you've got hot and cold water in bed'.

MRS P: I can remember Jim's brother-in-law, he was the last policeman at Kiandra, they closed down the station after that. They used to ring him up from the Daily Mirror to get reports on the weather and everything you see. I can still remember him one morning 'by jove it was a cold night last night' he said. 'We had everything on including the piano'. He was a hard case. They were always ringing up for weather reports, what was the snow like, how cold was it?

At one stage we did have electricity, for lighting we had a 32 volt engine - had that for a few years. But first of all we only had ordinary kerosene lights and pressure lights.

KH: When did electricity come?

MRS P: Oh we only just had our own little plant, nobody had electricity up there.

KH: Kiandra never had electricity!

MRS P: When the Snowy got well underway and that, we did try to get it, there was quite a few people still living there, but it would cost far too much money, it was going to cost a thousand pounds to bring it from the breaking down station. The only trouble was we didn't have enough people with money behind us or we might have got it. The place below us, they were fairly wealthy people - two or three doctors and big land holders and that sort of thing from down country. They were quite willing, even though they only came up for holidays, they were quite willing to have gone in and Harvey at the Chalet would have liked it - he had electricity, but it was only engines and they were often breaking down and that sort

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of thing. Our little plant only just ran your light, we could run an iron if we liked to keep the engine running the whole time, but that was all, you couldn't boil anything. It was really only just for your lights.

We had storage batteries, which was a bit of nuisance because we always went down, well nearly always went down to Jim's sisters for the shearing, we used to work in the shearing shed, I'd help my sister-in-law with the cooking and that. If you were away too long your batteries would get flat but then eventually the engine - there was some parts we couldn't get - we just had to give it away and go back to the pressure lights. It wasn't that many years then when we left there.

KH: Kiandra had a telephone for a long time. It always surprises me, these little places - I mean Coolamine too and Currango have had the phone since the turn of the century.

MRS P: They had the phone on out there from Yarrangobilly - Currango had the two lines, they had one in from Yarrangobilly and they had one from Adaminaby and then there was quite a few places in through there - the Pockets had the phone on, the Gulf - they were all on from Adaminaby, a party line admittedly, but they had them.

KH: They say that the government took the expense of putting up telephone poles and lines but not for electricity.

MRS P: Well not for those places far out. You had to put your own line in. Telephones were only ever paid, was it two miles from the post office, they would put a phone on for you, otherwise they were privately maintained. If there was anything wrong, the department would go a certain distance to see if there was anything wrong, you had to do it yourself other than that.

KH: Hence some of them were slung from tree to tree.

MRS P: Yes, quite a few of them were.

KH: Did you ever hear of a guy called Major Clews?

JP: Yes. I didn't know him but I've heard a lot of him at the time when he was up there.

KH: He's still alive apparently, he's living in the Mancoban caravan park now. He had that place up above Waterfall farm - I went in there the other day and that's where I saw the telephone line strung from tree to tree. I remember talking about the fact that a lot of places have the telephone but never had electricity which seems quite surprising. I would have thought that electricity would be more important than telephones. It must have been much more expensive to have electricity.

JP: There were two hard case lines at Kiandra, one went down to Lobbs Hole, that was from tree to tree, and one went out to Goandra, it left

the Tumut line a couple of miles out and then it went onto the fence - followed the fence. It wasn't a direct line. Then after a wind storm they'd have to ride the line, because it would get tangled on the posts. It saved a lot of standing of posts I suppose.

KH: Did you do much fencing in the mountains?

JP: Oh a bit. Your main job there was the stock, every spring you had to go around all of the fences because the snow breaks them down.

KH: Who did you mainly work for when you started working as a stockman? Did you work for one place a lot of time or ...

JP: Oh no, you just gradually crept into it, we had snow leases of our own.

KH: Your father!

JP: Yes.

KH: Where were they?

JP: There was one at the Three Mile and two more out Bullocks Hill direction.

KH: Up north?

JP: Yes. There was a big one there which was actually two blocks and one lot ran down almost to Lobbs Hole.

KH: That's steep country - Wallaces Creek.

JP: Yes, Wallaces Creek is right on the boundary, on one end of it. Yarrangobilly river was the boundary right up almost to the caves. They cut the snow leases up which brought in more owners and closer <sup>to</sup> Cooma, Berridale and Jindabyne, Tumut, Gundagai, Adelong.

KH: But that side of the mountain, it was mainly people from west who brought their stock up, not from the Monaro.

JP: Prior to that a lot came from the west. Then they cut up the blocks smaller and did away with a lot of those big fellows.

KH: That was in the 40s or are you talking about an earlier period still?

JP: A little bit earlier than that I think. Might have been about 1940. A lot of those blocks, say 3,000 acres, I suppose were cut in half - made two blocks out of them. Some were fenced off and some weren't. I started off then to look after a bloke's sheep - I used to have up to seven bosses.

KH: So you owned your own sheep ...

JP: Mainly cattle.

KH: What did you do with them in the summer time then.

JP: I <sup>had</sup> Three <sup>Mile</sup> in the summer time and also this rough country you're speaking of, well the top lease of that, there was a lot of level country on that.

KH: Sorry, in the winter time when the snow came.

JP: We'd take them down to Lobbs Hole. Occasionally you'd take them away for grass, perhaps to Gundagai or somewhere.

KH: Did you drove them?

JP: Yes - overland on stock routes. There wasn't that much transport those days either. Usually the buyers would come up there - a few from here a few from somewhere else and a few from round Adaminaby and make <sup>up</sup> a mob.

*Cup A Tea.*

...

MRS P: You were wanting information for that 'Historic Kiandra' - what was the name from the chap from Cooma?

KH: When they wrote the story of Kiandra!

MRS P: Who was the fellow who approached you?

JP: Hoskings.

MRS P: He was wanting information about the Three Mile Dam and Jim said he knew who could tell him and it was this old Hardy and at that stage she had all her faculties about her and she was very learned, though she was an old lady then. So Jim wrote to her and she wrote this letter back and I kept it - it could be in with those cuttings about the gold mines - I'm not sure where it is.

KH: Were you involved with the rebuilding of <sup>Witses</sup> hut - Clarie Butler and ...

JP: I think Clarie was the main fellow, there was two of them out at that snow lease.

MRS P: If you had the old map you'd know it because it had their name on the ...

KH: Clarie would know, I haven't spoken to him yet. It's in really good condition. We put a couple of new windows in there and a new door, so it's very weather tight and in good nick.

MRS P: It's a nice spot too isn't it?

KH: It is a nice spot, on the edge of the plain and it's just marginal skiing country too, if you pick the right day.

JP: Yes, years ago we used to take cattle out there in the winter.

KH: Did you have a lease out that way?

JP: No, but they weren't particular in those days and the people that had the lease well they <sup>had</sup> gone. As a matter of fact a big area out there was freehold. That's where we used to go to mainly.

KH: Who was this fellow that you said bought a mob of cattle from Condoblin - sheep.

JP: Jack Quilty.

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KH: Where did he have his lease?  
 JP: Just over the river from Kiandra.  
 KH: In the winter you can see a lot of wheel tracks, well across the river, up the other side. Is that an old road leading in there somewhere?  
 JP: One of them - the Land Rover one - that runs out past <sup>Witjes</sup> hut.  
 KH: Does it.  
 JP: On past there, down Nungar, that would be the way you come into <sup>Witjes</sup> wouldn't it.  
 KH: I come in from the Currango Road, I've walked across from <sup>o</sup>Goandra too. Well there's the old Cooma Road - the other side of the Cooma Road, up against the trees, looks like old land rover tracks.  
 JP: They'd be bullock dray tracks.  
 KH: That's more like it.  
 JP: They used to cart wood out of there for the dredge, years ago.  
 KH: They must be very heavy tracks, very deep because they are still visible now.  
 JP: I dare say, if they had a bullock team that had a big old tree on behind it for a drag, to break it a bit. That would be what would root up the ground.  
 KH: Last weekend they were very distinct. The high parts <sup>of</sup> the <sup>ruts</sup> had melted and the snow was still in the bottom, so it was very visible. Like the race lines.  
 MRS P: Yes, we used to drive out there - over Wildhorse plain.  
 KH: Was there still someone out at <sup>o</sup>Goandra then?  
 MRS P: No, only the people that used to come up in the summer time with their stock.  
 KH: You never knew the Lampe <sup>1</sup>s did you?  
 JP: Yes.  
 MRS P: Mrs Cottrell, a friend of ours, did you ever meet her?  
 KH: No, not yet.  
 MRS P: She was a Lampe. That chap was her uncle.  
 JP: Fred Lampe, yes.  
 KH: If you can still remember him, you didn't come into Kiandra until 1924.  
 JP: He'd been coming there for years before that.  
 KH: He bought that Basin in the 1920s I believe! The main homestead there at <sup>o</sup>Goandra.

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JP: I reckon that would be right. From what I can gather a lot of the country horse races - practically any of it that was fenced if you go back long enough.  
 KH: He also built a bit of a shed.  
 JP: He did shear there one year.  
 KH: He came from a long way didn't he? Out West?  
 JP: Yes, Coonamble.  
 KH: Way up north - <sup>west</sup>.  
 JP: Yes. He had ten boys and he put them all on a place.  
 KH: It was people like him apparently that did this long droving ~~trek~~, or his men. Three months on the road to get them back to the home property, they'd shear them there and then three months back to the mountains again. That was a common pattern?  
 JP: Yes. This old Quilty chap that came from Condobolin, he was 13 weeks on the road and put in the summer at Kiandra, drove them back and the time they were shorn and dipped - got over that and then <sup>he</sup> would start them back again.  
 KH: You wouldn't need much of a property back home?  
 JP: No, that's right.  
 Drover's wages were cheap too in those days.  
 KH: When was the last time you saw Fred Lampe then? 1940s, after the War?  
 MRS P: He wasn't there when we first got married was he?  
 JP: No.  
 KH: He wasn't there any more then?  
 JP: Austin was another chap who used to come there.  
 KH: What was his Christian name?  
 JP: A.W. was his initials.  
 KH: When I spoke to you once before you spoke about the naming of Roaring <sup>Mag</sup> Hill. Some publican lady or something?  
 JP: I think it was - bellowing her head off at something or other I think.  
 KH: She would have had a pub in Kiandra or something wouldn't she? Or was there something out towards Three Mile?  
 JP: I don't know.  
 KH: I thought it was you who told. Could have been Ted Quinn.  
 Did you ever go to Bob Hughes' Four Mile hut? The hut he built after he left the Elaine.  
 JP: Yes, I've been there.

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KH: There's no real road to Four Mile.  
 JP: No, there isn't. It's pretty rough over there.  
 KH: There's quite a few slabs and a lot of iron and pipes in that building. He must have transported most of it over from the Elaine.  
 JP: He would do. The <sup>re</sup> was a fellow, Tom Yan, he had a couple of horses and a little light wagon. He would have been the one who shifted it over.  
 KH: Tom told me he also took the machinery into the Lorna Doone.  
 JP: He might have done.  
 KH: He said he had a bullock team.  
 JP: Yes, he had a bullock team when I was a kid.  
 MRS P: Him or his father.  
 JP: No, Tom.  
 KH: Did you know Sanco Smith.  
 JP: Yes.  
 KH: I keep on hearing his name in all sorts of places. He must have got around a fair bit.  
 JP: Oh yes. He used to take his hot water bag on the pack horses. Not a bad idea.  
 KH: He was an <sup>Adaminaby</sup> fellow? Born and bred in Adaminaby.  
 JP: Yes. Sanco Smith, his father, was there before him I believe.  
 KH: What was his main involvement with the mountains?  
 JP: He had cattle.  
 KH: He had snow leases on the other side of Broken Dam.  
 JP: In the Nine Mile, yes.  
 KH: The fellows who had the Broken Dam one, <sup>Waugh</sup> and Stanmore?  
 KH: <sup>Waugh</sup> had the Broken Dam <sup>lease</sup> and he was the fellow who had the fence put in along the ridge between Kiandra and Tabletop. And Sanco Smith had the western side, and <sup>Waugh</sup> the eastern side.  
 JP: It would run right out along the table land and swing around near Milkman's Flat and on around towards Tabletop.  
 KH: That's right - a lot of it is still there now.  
 MRS P: Then he used to be out at Kellys Plain. Is that where the fellow hung himself.  
 KH: What was his name?  
 JP: Harold.  
 KH: I remember Leo Russell telling me about that a couple of years ago.  
 MRS P: You've met Leo have you?  
 KH: Yes, I went out with some of the locals from Adaminaby <sup>to Nungar</sup> Plain, they showed me all the huts. I remember him telling me about this story

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of the young bloke hanging himself.  
 MRS P: But it wasn't at Nungar because they weren't on the phone.  
 JP: Nungar is not far away from Circuits.  
 MRS P: I was on the exchange when <sup>that</sup> happened. I was only young and this old Sanco Smith was a regular pest. He didn't have the phone on himself and used to ring from his neighbours and always expected attention the minute he rang. He was a real old menace. This time he rang up and he want<sup>ed</sup> Circuit<sup>t</sup>. I said 'sorry they're engaged'. He kept ringing and he said, 'could you please hurry them up, my poor boy just hanged himself out there' and I nearly fell over. I was only a kid about 15 or 16. It give me an awful shock. The boss lived on the premises and he happened to come in just then. I must have looked a bit white around the gills and he asked what happened. I told him and he said, you go home, I'll take over. You were there all on your own until 10 o'clock at night.  
 KH: It was Sanco's son?  
 JP: Oh my word.  
 KH: What was the story behind that?  
 MRS P: I think he might have driven him to it - he was an old wretch.  
 JP: He had the boys doing all the work, not pay them anything much.  
 KH: But still, it takes a lot to hang yourself.  
 MRS P: He mightn't have been real good in the top either, a bit unbalanced.  
 JP: He hung himself with his belt. From a gate post I think.

END SIDE 3

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He rode under it, <sup>(the rope)</sup>

JP: .V. tied it on <sup>^</sup> and kicked the horse from under himself.

KH: And Sanco found him?

MRS P: No, he didn't because he was in town, I forget who found him now. Must have been some of the Circuitts who found him. He was in Adaminaby and was ringing up these people. I don't know what he was trying to find out. I can only remember he frightened the dickens out of me.

KH: What about that other guy they brought out of Wallaces Creek? Might have been before your time.

JP: Oh, Mick Shanley.

MRS P: We heard about that, your father used to tell that story. He knew all about it. That would be in your dad's day wouldn't it.

JP: Oh yes.

KH: What was the story that you heard on that one?

JP: All I know about it is that he'd been through with stock, through to Tumb<sup>er</sup>umba and he was on his way back up to Kiandra. <sup>He was an Adaminaby chap.</sup> The snow got too deep - that's about all I know about it. He perished.

KH: Apparently they tied him to a pole and they carried him up to Three Mile and took him by sled to Adaminaby.

JP: I can remember Harold Bell's saying it got away from them.

KH: Charlie Bell's brother.

JP: Bert, Jack, Charlie and Harold.

KH: You were talking about Bob Hughes <sup>being</sup> a very fastidious character, what were you saying about him.

MRS P: Oh yes. He was the cleanest bachelor I've ever seen in my life. Not only in his house, but in himself too, very, very clean old chap. He used to whitewash his fire place <sup>and blacken</sup> his stove.

KH: I was at Fred Fletcher's the other day and they whitewash the inside of their stove. I was quite surprised. It's the cleanest fire place I've ever seen.

MRS P: We do ours at Kiandra like that.

KH: Is that to reflect more heat?

MRS P: Well it does and nothing looks worse than a black fireplace. We still do ours when we go up to Kiandra, whiten it up.

KH: That sort of explains the meticulous detail about some things to do with Four Mile hut. All the slabs have got narrow strips of iron nailed over them to keep out the wind - you see that in other huts - but then each nail has got a little leather washer underneath it and there are hundreds of nails and hundreds of strips. Then he's cut out little tins to make little soap holders and it all fits and works.

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KH: Bob would have been a bit of a hermit would he?

JP: Yes, I think so.

MRS P: He was a very nice chap, our kids were very fond of Bob weren't they.

JP: Yes.

MRS P: He knew Betty as a little girl, <sup>she</sup> loved raw carrot. Any time he'd see her going past, he'd pull a fresh carrot out of the garden for her. He got on well with everybody.

He used to scrub his floors - he was as tidy as anything. You'd never see where he had been cutting wood.

KH: Did he have friends that would call on him and stay with him?

MRS P: Oh yes. The Barne<sup>s</sup> used to stop with him and his sister used to come. Charlie Bell always called to see him.

JP: He was a reserved sort of a chap. He'd come visiting on a Sunday and sit for 2-3 hours and might only say 3-4 words.

MRS P: We invited him for Xmas dinner once - he actually came. We used to ask him nearly every year because he was on his own. The kids got special presents for Bob to put on the Xmas tree. He came all dressed up - his waist coat and chain, his boots all shining. Never ever saw him dirty. He'd patch his <sup>own</sup> clothes and all that sort of thing.

KH: What about old Bill Patrick <sup>e</sup> - what sort of a bloke was he?

MRS P: He was a different kettle of fish altogether.

JP: We won't put that on tape.

KH: He was much more lively was he?

MRS P: Queer. Oh yes.

JP: When the moon changed I think he changed too.

MRS P: That's true. The Dr in Adaminaby once said he used to take to his wife and all that sort of thing. She told us once, it's not a fantasy, some people are affected by the change of the moon, unfortunately he's one of them. When a new moon comes on, in particular, he definitely is not entirely sane.

KH: Did he get up to anything special when he was under the influence of the moon?

MRS P: Well he took to his wife at one stage with a gun - chased her through all the old diggings. He used to go around accusing people of having affairs with his wife, he was queer.

JP: He used to go off his rocker.

KH: Did he take it out <sup>in</sup> any other ways?

MRS P: He used to knock his wife around a bit.

Jim Pattinson

JP: Strangely enough, when he was sane (put it that way) he was an interesting fellow to talk to.

MRS P: He would have had a wealth of information stored up in him.

KH: He's one of the old timers <sup>wasn't</sup> he?

MRS P: Yes. He would have been the oldest one there - the last few years of his life - everybody else had more or less left.

KH: What about the Southern Cloud - the crash of the plane? Do you remember anything about it.

JP: I can remember the day it went over - we heard it. Aeroplanes in those days were few and far between.

KH: The Southern Cloud was about 1931 - early 30s.

JP: My brother-in-law was only saying not so long ago - the Tumbalumba people came up through there, pack horses and all and searched. Apparently they weren't very far away from it either.

KH: A number of people told me - Tom Taylor, Bill Hughes - they heard it go over - a bad day. Bill reckoned if he searched anywhere, it would be around Round Mountain somewhere. He thought that's where it would go down. It surprised me that none of them went out looking for it - they had a premonition about it - it would go down somewhere in the mountains because it was so low when it came across Kiandra.

Tom Taylor thought he saw it from the other side of the hill - several people have said that.

MRS P: Tom Taylor would know the mountains pretty good, they've lived from one end of the mountains to the other really.

JP: I think Tom was with old Jack Morrisey for a while, with his gold digging outfit.

KH: Tom was involved on Diggers Creek, near the Boobees, doing some mining in the 40s.

MRS P: <sup>You could bet your socks that</sup> wherever Tom was, Molly would be - after they were married - she used to go everywhere with him - they lived all over the mountains - the Pockets at one stage.

KH: I thought it was mainly more in the Coolamine/Currago<sup>n</sup> Area.

MRS P: They<sup>ve</sup> been on the other side - at Happys, Grey Mare - they lived at one stage. I was surprised because I thought they'd never been over that way - I knew Tom had.

KH: What about those mines <sup>off</sup> the Kings Cross Road, like <sup>Schäffers</sup> and Reids, they were going during the Depression.

JP: I remember when they started up.

MRS P: Reid had his going when we were in Kiandra.

Jim Pattinson

KH: Reids is the one on Three Mile Creek.

JP: Yes.

KH: What was his Christian name, do you know?

JP: Jim.

KH: He was from Sydney was he?

JP: Yes.

KH: Do you know where from in Sydney? or what he did for a living?

JP: He came from Manly, I don't know whether he did anything much for a living apart from when he was up there. *He had a couple of boys.*  
He had a partner with him at one stage.

KH: They had a shaft.

JP: Yes.

KH: Reids is a five stamper, it's still in the bush.

MRS P: We know the fellow who shifted that.

KH: Graham <sup>Blinksell</sup>!

MRS P: No the chaps who rebuilt that one there.

KH: I thought that came from <sup>Schäffers</sup> mine.

MRS P: It may have done too. Don't you remember the ranger was there and asked you about it one time.

JP: If I had a bet I'd say it was Jim Reid's one.

KH: That Reid, if that's the one that's on Three Mile creek with a shaft and a couple of hut sites, that stamper battery is still there. As far as I'm aware its further along the Kings Cross Road, a short distance in, steeper country and the foundations where this <sup>two</sup> stamper was are still there. That's the one I thought was known <sup>n</sup> as <sup>Schäffers</sup> mine. Did you ever go to <sup>Schäffers</sup>?

JP: Oh yes. Used to pack to there too when it was going.

KH: It's so overgrown now.

MRS P: Reids was used a lot.

KH: It looks like it was used till later.

MRS P: Well it was closed and then he came back.

KH: Must have went <sup>in</sup> the 40s.

MRS P: Oh it would be, well in the 40s when he and son were back there. Because Joyce and Harvey had the pub. It mightn't have been a pub then but when Joyce and Harvey first came there it wasn't.

KH: <sup>Schäffers</sup> was in the early 30s I think, 33-34.

JP: It would be too. That used to operate years before that I think. They came back and started it up again - a different company.

Jim Pattinson

MRS P: Jim Reid's was always Jim Reid's, wasn't it. Who was the other fellow he had with him?

JP: Bishop wasn't it - no - I can't remember.

MRS P: He had an old bomb of a car - an old red one and he always broke down, no matter where he went he always broke down. They crashed it going back to Sydney one time.

JP: Yes, that was at Adaminaby.

They were going home for Xmas, he and his mate. They got 10 pounds off the publican at Kiandra, they got to Adaminaby and got on a spree there and then set sail again, crashed the car. They came back up to their mine, got a bit of special rock, dollied her all up by hand and got enough out of her and set off again. They picked <sup>the</sup> special bits apparently.

MRS P: They probably took it in and sold it to the publican to get a bit more money.

KH: They got a bit of gold out of there?

JP: Yes.

KH: What about Schaeffers?

MRS P: There were Schaeffers at Adaminaby but I don't remember a Dr Schaeffer.

KH: A fellow that wasn't really a trained Dr but he used ...

MRS P: Oh yes, they called him Dr Schaeffer.

JP: Well I suppose it would be his son that came back there in my time and his son also - that was Charlie Schaeffer.

KH: I've met one of them, he's about the age of Bill Hughes. I met him in Penrith a few years ago.

What about Jacob Wilson, did he have any outstanding characteristics? or stories to tell?

JP: I wouldn't know, I'd be a bit young.

KH: He had a big white beard didn't he?

JP: No. That was old Jeffries. That's the fellow who bought Jacob out.

MRS P: Jim and his brother and a couple of other boys made him a wedding cake.

JP: He was 75 this old joker, married a young girl 23. Her and her mother came there to work one winter. Anyway he married this girl, the pub was directly opposite the store, I was in charge of the store. Dad would go away somewhere and there was no one around. These boys and I <sup>made</sup> a six decker, she was, out of mud, <sup>little round fellows,</sup> sprinkled some flour all over it, stuck in a dandelion, took her over and put it on the verandah, rang the bell and took off.

Jim Pattinson

MRS P: We always called him Santa Claus because he had this long white beard. Didn't he build a great big high fence and wouldn't let his wife out.

KH: Was he successful in keeping his wife in?

JP: Well I think so.

MRS P: She must have been a bit queer to marry him in the first place.

<sup>JP:</sup> She must have been after his dough.

KH: Do you know what happened to them?

JP: They went back to Mirrool or wherever it was they came from. Out past June Reef's way.

KH: Broken Dam hut has always been at Broken Dam since you remember it.

JP: Yes.

KH: When did you start working for the Trust?

JP: I worked for the Dept. of Lands to control illegal stock.

KH: You'd have to count numbers and so on?

JP: Well the leases that were open, they were allotted a certain number and you'd count up those to make sure they weren't trying to put too many on. Then the closed down area which was from Kiandra through to the head of the Murray, I'd travel that for illegal stock which I was to impound or do something with.

KH: Did you have to impound many?

JP: No. We closed our eyes to a lot. We sent a truck load of sheep away a couple or three times - twice I think and a few cattle on another occasion.

MRS P: It was always the same two fellows.

KH: Who was it mainly?

JP: Old Amos Hedger was one.

KH: I've been to his hut. Who was the other one?

<sup>Bondie</sup> JP: Mould, yes.

KH: A little hut up near Spencers Creek. There was a Mould's hut up there. They were the main culprits were they?

JP: Well the way he was situated - there was 600 acres at Alpine Hut, freehold. So the Lands Dept. gazetted that, that means they'd taken it over, but they never paid him for it, so they used to bring stock up there.

MRS P: He reckoned until he got his money, it was still his.

JP: One year on the 600 acres, he had 3,000 sheep and the fences were no good. We had to do something about it. We didn't do much.

KH: What about the Fletchers or Flanagan's, ever have much to do with them?

JP: Just that you know them.

<sup>Ron</sup> KH: Flanagan, did you meet him?

He's got some strong things to say about the Park. He only <sup>needs to</sup> ask.

Jim Pattinson :

a couple of questions. Some of the others like Fred <sup>Fletcher</sup> and Tom <sup>Taylor</sup> were much more amicable about the whole situation.

MRS P: Nice chap Fred Fletcher isn't he.

KH: Oh yes, lovely.

MRS P: He's got two of his brothers here, Colin and Charlie. I think his son lives here too doesn't he. He's got a married daughter here.

JP: I don't know.

KH: But Ron has still of course got his lease right up against the Park. He's still got his hut in there too.

JP: That would be Snowy Plain, freehold wouldn't it.

KH: Well yes.

Did you know the Mackays? They built Mackays in the 40s. Where did they come from?

MRS P: Dry Plain. *Adaminaby*.

KH: They would have had one of the last leases in that area I think.

JP: The two boys had a lease at Four Mile. I'm not sure if they had that when it closed down or not. The <sup>Miner's</sup> were out around there too.

They were there when the leases were closed but whether it was that particular block or not I don't know. Mackays did have it, because they were talking about shifting the hut. That's the year after they closed it, they didn't get round to it.

KH: Were the stockmen who had the leases compensated for the huts?

JP: No.

KH: They had the choice of moving them or leaving them?

JP: Yes that's right.

KH: Most of them seemed to leave them.

JP: Quite a few did yes. I think some of those that are gone now were maybe pinched for the iron on them by somebody else.

KH: Were they all built legally, did they have to ask for permission to build the hut?

JP: No just put it up.

MRS P: I don't think there was any such thing as getting permission to put them up.

KH: What about stockyards?

JP: No just put them up.

KH: They took the risk - I mean they'd get the lease for 7 years ..

MRS P: They didn't worry about things like that, they knew that if people took stock to the mountains they had to have somewhere to live. A lot of them had places at Kiandra.

Jim Pattinson

KH: What about the huts at Kiandra, were they legal?

MRS P: In the township were all houses from previous days.

KH: I would suspect that in the past a lot of structures just went up because it was desirable to have it.

MRS P: They bought that as freehold and they only rebuilt.

KH: Some people now, with this huts issue, with the controversy over the huts - some people are saying that there have been a few huts built illegally in the last few years. Like that hut below Mt Tantangra, an iron hut.

JP: Wally Reeds!

MRS P: That was up before there was any Park though, yes.

JP: There might have been a Park then.

MRS P: There wasn't any Park when old Wally was there.

JP: Of course there was.

KH: I didn't think it was a very old hut - 50s.

MRS P: 50s - could have been.

KH: It was built for skiing.

JP: Well, yes but there wasn't enough snow at Kiandra. Cec He therington put it up.

KH: Was he still around then?

MRS P: Yes, not the old chap, there was a son - he worked at the Chalet for years and years, about Jim's age. He's dead now too, but he was there, he was a very handy fellow.

JP: Yes, do anything.

KH: So most of the other mountain huts are just as illegal as the hut below Mt Tantangra.

JP: I wouldn't say that, if you had a stockman's hut on your lease.

MRS P: What about the other one that Wally had up on top of Sawyers.

JP: He had another one there.

MRS P: It was a big place - garage.

JP: I don't think there was a fireplace in it.

MRS P: I don't think there was, but he used to store food in it - he had a lock-up place. Sometimes you could only get there with your car and he used to lock his car up there and leave tin <sup>ned</sup> food there and everything.

JP: From the very top of Sawyers - the top of the road - on the Saddle.

MRS P: I don't think he ever got permission to put that up. We Christened it the morgue because some fellows pinched some stuff from Cooma and drank what they thought was beer - pinched the truck and all - came up that far and got stuck into this stuff which was weedkiller. There was two dead and one

Jim Pattinson

fellow was <sup>so</sup> sick from drinking grog he was too sick to drink any.

JP: That saved his life.

MRS P: He passed out before he could have any I think. There was three of them in it. He came to the next morning and these two other blokes were dead. He took fright and took off. We christened it the morgue after that.

KH: What was the name of the guy who built that?

JP: Wally Reed.

KH: Who had the chalet?

JP: Yes. In fact it wasn't as it is now. He had his own private cottage down the back - two or three rooms.

KH: You told me about some medals that your father William got in 1900. That was on skis - 220 yards in 11 seconds and again in 1906 - 9½ seconds over 220 yards in 1906. This is on a downhill at Kiandra.

JP: Yes.

KH: You told me a story about a bet between Bill Hughes and Bill <sup>Wortz</sup> what was that about?

JP: When they finished work at Elaine on Saturday, they'd come to town. Bill <sup>Wortz</sup> would ride in and Bill Hughes didn't have a horse, he'd walk in. So they had a bet who'd get to town first. It slipped my mind who won it.

KH: You thought that Bill Hughes won, but you weren't sure.

Is Mrs Cottrell still in Tumut?

JP: She's in hospital at the moment.

KH: Was she the lady who was staying over here with you at one stage?

JP: Yes, she was over again about 3 months, she took a bit of a turn and has been in hospital ever since.

KH: Would she be a good person to talk to when she's better.

JP: Not in regards to mountains. She lived at Yarrangobilly for most of her married life.

KH: Do you know a fellow named Eddie Davies, used to work for the Snowy scheme, lives in Canberra now?

JP: No.

MRS P: I lot of people you knew but never knew their <sup>surnames</sup>.

KH: That's one of the things I'm trying to get straight now is the names.

JP: Sanco Smith was Sanco Jack Smith.

There was another Jack Smith but he was Stony Jack

END TAPE 2, SIDE 4.